

FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS
October 19, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on October 19, 2021, at the **Laona Community Building in Laona**, Wisconsin. Chairperson Gretzinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present. The Clerk, Nora Matuszewski, read the agenda.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ackley, Anderson, Berg, Black, Campbell, Collins, Dehart, Goode, Gretzinger, Houle, Karl, Laabs, Lukas, Matuszewski, Miller, Piasini, Stamper, & Dailey.

Absent: Chaney – Vacant: District (1) & District (7)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Laabs to approve the agenda as presented, second by Dailey. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1); Chaney. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 17, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Miller to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2021 Regular Meeting, second by Anderson. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1); Chaney. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD

Resignation of Rhonda Roberts from the Commission on Aging Committee

Motion by Lukas to accept the resignation of Rhonda Roberts from the Aging committee and to place all communications on file in the County Clerk's Office, second by Berg. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1); Chaney. Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Scott Sternhagen -CLA Auditing firm, was in to go over the 2020 Financial audit and answer any questions from the board. He went through the audit and explained the fund balances, where the county is sitting financially, any and all findings in the report, and finished by telling the board the county is in a good position financially based off of revenues and expenses.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Gretzinger told everyone she is very excited and felt the board makes a good team and by working together, staying positive and "helping ourselves," things are getting done. She thanked everyone for the hard work being done with the Veteran's Park, which she said is beautiful and a thank you will be done in the spring to Jamie Flannery for all his work.

The Courthouse is coming along, but, very torn apart right now and it will be December before it can be fully occupied again. A new elevator will be put in sometime in January.

She made an announcement that an expansion broadband grant was secured through a PSC grant, submitted by Northwoods Connect. The County Finance committee decided to use ARPA funds and have Northwoods Connect apply for the grant. The county is using \$1,748,000 of ARPA

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funding, PSC grant money awarded, \$2,283,772, and matching funds of \$3,792,000 from private industry, for a total of \$9,850,000 total with the previous award to Forest County, enabling positive impacts to our emergency services, education, e-health, and economic development. Cindy explained just how important the need for broadband surfaced through the pandemic. This project coupled with the County's 2020 grant for broadband will be among the largest broadband grant awards around.

With the Sheriff stepping down Cindy wanted to let everyone know how Alex Walrath has stepped up to the plate for the county.

Jody Jensen has decided to hand in her resignation with the county. The social services department has quite a few openings and there are new positions that need to be added to the department to try and help it move forward. She feels the County cannot put a cost on a child's life when it comes to these positions and the committees are working hard to find ways to fund the new positions.

Lukas stepped in to say the roads in Forest County need to be fixed and the one way this can be accomplished and new positions funded is by exploring the ½% sales tax. This would bring in more revenue to the tune of around \$650,000 for the Highway and in turn free up a portion of the levy that is going to highway to fund these other positions. Lukas told the members the county is looking at a referendum to fund extra positions in the future if there is not another avenue found to fund them. With a sales tax increase it would affect everyone including tourists to help pay for positions, not just a levy increase on the tax payers. Gretzinger asked for a show of hands of members who would support exploring the ½% sales tax increase; a unanimous show of hands was the response to the question.

Gretzinger asked the board to take a minute in honor of the memory of the late board member Karl Tauer.

APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS

None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF EXTENDING THE COVID SSL POLICY UNTIL THE NOVEMBER 9, 2021 FULL COUNTY BOARD MEETING

Motion by Collins to update the supplemental sick leave policy and extend it until the November 9, 2021 full county board meeting, second by Dehart. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution -80-2021 Offered by Land Sales & Delinquent Tax

<i>Sandra Kay Pukall</i>	<i>010-00520-0000</i>
<i>Dewaine Lorbeske</i>	<i>028-00032-0000</i>
<i>John Bobula</i>	<i>028-00063-0000 & 028-00064-0000</i>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Forest County Treasurer shall have the authority to request the preparation of the necessary paperwork to Tax Deed the properties listed above.

Motion by Dehart to approve the resolution as presented, second by Miller. All present voting (AYE)(18); Absent (1); Chaney. Motion carried.

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Resolution 81-2021 – Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the sum of approximately \$92,000.00 currently being held in an account designated for the Wendel/Samuels Group be placed in the General Building Maintenance Outlay Account. Motion by Lukas to approve the resolution as presented, second by Laabs. All present voting (AYE)(18); Absent (1); Chaney. Motion carried.

Resolution 82-2021 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the department heads shall be allowed to attend the Leadership Training Seminar at a cost not to exceed \$1,700.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that payment for the Leadership Training Seminar shall be taken from the Forest County General Fund.

Motion by Collins to amend the resolution to read in the fourth paragraph, “department heads shall attend the Leadership Training Seminar,” second by Anderson. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

Motion by Berg to approve the resolution as presented, second by Anderson. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

Resolution 83-2021 – Offered by Forestry and Recreation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that a Family Support Specialist with the duties as set forth in the position description shall be employed by Forest County.

Motion by Piasini to approve the resolution as presented, second by Karl. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

Resolution 84-2021 – Offered by Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that a Lead Social Worker with the duties as set forth in the job description shall be employed by Forest County.

Motion by Dailey to approve the resolution as presented, second by Black. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

Resolution 85-2021 – Offered by Public Property/Building and Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that a Maintenance Supervisor with the duties and pay structure as set forth in the job description shall be employed by Forest County.

Motion by Stamper to approve the resolution as presented, second by Laabs. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

Resolution 86-2021 – Offered by Commission on Aging

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the County Board Chairperson to sign the final Forest County Aging Plan for fiscal years 2022-2024 indicating that the County Board of Supervisors has approved the final plan and

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agrees that the plan will be carried out to the best of the ability of the county in compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations for 2022-2024.

Motion by Berg to approve the resolution as presented, second by Miller. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

Resolution 87-2021 – Offered by Finance

SO, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Forest County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the draft Commission Agreement, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution, and authorizes and directs the Forest County Board Chair to sign such document after receipt of

approval from the Forest County official duly-appointed to approve the final form of the Commission Agreement and approval of the Forest County Corporation Counsel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Forest County Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to appoint a board supervisor to act as Forest County's official representative in relation to the final approval of the form of the Commission Agreement and to otherwise take all action necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution; and

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

That Cindy Gretzinger is designated as the Forest County "Representative Director" of the Board of Directors of the Commission in accordance with the Commission Agreement, she is to serve at the pleasure of the Forest County Board of Supervisors

All of which is respectfully submitted this 19th day of October, 2021.

Motion by Lukas to approve the resolution as presented, second by Collins. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

Resolution 88-2021- Offered by Intergovernmental/Redistricting

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors in session this 19th day of October, 2021, do hereby adopt said tentative redistricting plan for the supervisory districts as described on the attached document and as visually displayed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is hereby directed to provide visual copies of this tentative redistricting plan by certified mail to each municipal governing body in Forest County, with instructions regarding the action required under Wis. Stat. §5.15 within sixty (60) days of receipt of said tentative redistricting plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Forest County Intergovernmental/Redistricting Committee members hereby authorized to meet with county municipalities if so requested to explain said ward plan.

Motion by Stamper to approve the resolution as presented, second by Piasini. All present voting (AYE) (15); (NAY) (3), Dehart, Laabs, Lukas; Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

Resolution 89-2021 – Offered by Personnel and Sheriff and Justice

1. Appendix H of the Handbook entitled Supplemental Employee Benefits shall be amended to read as follows:

4. *JAIL/DISPATCH Uniform Allowance- \$250 per calendar year.*

- *There will be no cleaning allowance.*
- *New Employees receive (\$400) Uniform Allowance after one (1) year of full-time employment.*

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Jail-Education pay per credits:

- *Commencing in 2022, there will be no education payments for the Jail and/or Dispatch Center.*
- *Night shift differential pay - .25 per hour*
- *Overtime paid for automatically being called in for court, training, transport; Anything above the scheduled shift, unless sick leave is utilized.*
- *Longevity- 5-10 years- \$10 per month*
- *10-15 years- \$15 per month*
- *15-20 years-\$20 per month*
- *20 years- \$25 per month*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest County Board of Supervisors does hereby adopt the above-mentioned changes to the Employee Handbook, Appendix H, Paragraph 4.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the existing Employee Handbook of the Forest County Employees not otherwise affected by the above-mentioned changes shall remain in full force and effect.

Motion by Stamper to approve the resolution as presented, second by Houle. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

Resolution 90-2021 – Offered by Commission on Aging

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors in session this 19th day of October 2021, that the Director for the Office On Aging, namely Tammy Queen, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and submit to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, an application for assistance to provide transportation services to the elderly and handicapped during 2022, all pursuant to Sec. 85.21 of Wisconsin Statutes and further, in conformation with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Forest County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the obligation of county funds in the amount not to exceed 20% of that amount allocated to the county by the grant referred to above, in order to provide the required local matching funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the County Board Chairman and the County Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a State Aid Contract with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, all pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Sec. 85.21 in order to accomplish the foregoing.

Motion by Dehart to approve the resolution as presented, second by Berg. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 03-2021 – Offered by Finance

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

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Motion by Dailey to adopt the ordinance as presented, second by Laabs. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried. Ordinance adopted.

ANNUAL REPORTS

2020 Financial Report

2020 Child Support Annual Reports

Motion by Black to place reports on file in the County Clerk's Office, second by Ackley. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1), Chaney. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Miller, second by Collins to adjourn. All present voting (AYE) (18); Absent (1); Chaney. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the November 9, 2021 Forest County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nora Matuszewski
Forest County Clerk